

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 IO-10 JUSE-00 TRSE-00

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8008

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GW

SUBJECT: US/FRG ANTITRUST COOPERATION

REF: BONN 01441

1. DR. STAHL OF ECONMIN CALLED EMBOFF FEBRUARY 13 REGARDING KAUPER LETTER ON LUFTHANSA COOPERATION IN PRICE FIXING INVESTIGATION. STAHL REPORTED THAT THE LETTER HAD BEEN CAREFULLY STUDIED IN HIS MINISTRY AS WELL AS IN THE TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY AND BY LUFTHANSA OFFICIALS.

2. WHILE A FINAL DECISION HAD NOT BEEN REACHED, AND AN OFFICIAL REPLY TO MR. KAUPER'S LETTER WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY, STAHL WISHED TO CONVEY TO US INFORMALLY THE GENERALLY NEGATIVE REACTION OF LUFTHANSA. PER STAHL, LUFTHANSA FELT IT WAS PLACING ITSELF IN A DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION BY PROVIDING EVIDENCE IN AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ALLEGEDLY UNAUTHORIZED ACT TO WHICH IT WAS ITSELF A PARTY. FURTHER, IN STAHL'S VIEW, LUFTHANSA FELT THAT THE CURRENT KEEN
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COMPETITION FOR PASSENGERS ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC

ROUTE; AND "RECENT AMERICAN CAB RULINGS" HAD NOT
PUT LUFTHANSA IN A PARTICULARLY COOPERATIVE FRAME OF
MIND.

3. EMBOFF REMINDED STAHL THAT IT WAS FRG SIDE WHICH
HAS BEEN PUSHING FOR GREATER ANTI-TRUST COOPERATION,
AND THAT LUFTHANSA CASE WAS AN OPPORTUNITY IN THIS
CONTEXT. STAHL ASSURED US HE WAS DOING WHAT HE
COULD TO SECURE LUFTHANSA COOPERATION, BUT THAT ECONMIN
COULD NOT DICTATE TO LUFTHANSA. HE ADVISED THAT
SEVERAL MORE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD BEFORE THE
PREPARATION OF A REPLY TO THE PROPOSAL, AND THAT
HE WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE COOPERATION, BUT AT THE
MOMENT HE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT BEING ABLE TO INFLUENCE
THE MATTER TO ANY GREAT EXTENT.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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